

*In the Specification*

Please replace page 1, third paragraph of the specification with the following:

[0003] "Various processes have been used to remove sulfur-containing compounds such as mercaptans. Two of the most common processes are the UOP ~~Merex~~<sup>TM</sup> MEROX<sup>TM</sup> extraction process and the ~~Merichem~~ THIOLEX<sup>SM</sup> / ~~Thiolex~~<sup>SM</sup> THIOLEX<sup>SM</sup> / ~~Regen~~<sup>SM</sup> REGEN<sup>SM</sup> process. In the ~~Merex~~<sup>TM</sup> MEROX<sup>TM</sup> extraction process, the mercaptans are removed in a multistage extraction contactor using high efficiency trays. A caustic regeneration section then converts the extracted mercaptans to disulfide oils, via an air/catalyst oxidation reaction, which are then separated and removed in a disulfide separator vessel. The ~~Thiolex~~<sup>SM</sup> THIOLEX<sup>SM</sup> / ~~Regen~~<sup>SM</sup> REGEN<sup>SM</sup> process is similar, except that in the place of the multistage contactor, the ~~Thiolex~~<sup>SM</sup> THIOLEX<sup>SM</sup> / ~~Regen~~<sup>SM</sup> REGEN<sup>SM</sup> process uses a fiber bundle to facilitate contact between the caustic stream and the hydrocarbon stream."

Please replace page 5, final paragraph of the specification with the following:

0010 "In the embodiment depicted in Figure 1, scrubber 10 consists primarily of shell 100, which may be constructed out of typical materials used in the manufacture of industrial equipment, often carbon or stainless steel, although certain ceramics and exotic metals such as ~~Inconel~~ INCONEL alloys, including ~~Inconel~~ INCONEL alloy 625, able to withstand the conditions associated with scrubber, are appropriate as well. Where scrubber 10 is exposed to high levels of caustic or caustic salts, it is generally not

desirable to use carbon steel on process-wetted parts, unless the carbon steel is lined with a suitable noncorrosive material such as rubber, glass, or ceramic. Shell 100 is most commonly a section of piping. Vent gas enters scrubber 10 through vent gas entry point 20. The vent gas may be composed of the following components, although scrubber 10 is capable of handling any vent gas stream where the sulfides are a minor component:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Range (all ranges in mole %)</b>
Nitrogen	70 – 90
Oxygen	0 – 21
Water	0 – 8
Hydrocarbons	0 – 10
Disulfide Oils	0 – 2
Mercaptans	trace
Sodium Thiosulfate	trace